

## COMMUNITIES ORGANIZE AGAINST POLICE TERROR



Communities have erupted in protest throughout Rio de Janeiro after the Military Police [MP] murdered more innocent inhabitants of the favelas over the last week.

On Jan 4, residents of the Cidade de Deus favela [CDD] blocked off the Yellow Line, a major road in the west zone of Rio de Janeiro. The people barricaded the road with wood, furniture, and other objects.

They were protesting the murder of 38 year old Marcelo Guimarães, a resident of the CDD who was shot by the MP while on his way home after dropping off his son at daycare. Guilherme, who witnessed the shooting, reported, "there was no exchange of gunfire. He slowed down and the "skull" [armored MP vehicle] fired a shot. He fell here, where the blood mark is. The skull came around shooting up, then they came with a plastic bottle full of shell casings and released it here."

Marcelo worked in a marble shop and was married with two children. At the time of his murder, he was wearing his work boots, as he was preparing to go into work after getting his cellphone from his house.

On the same day Marcelo was murdered, an MP officer from the same battalion as his murderers used social media to threaten protestors, saying they would get hurt if they went out to have their "fun." The community was not intimidated by these wicked attempts to suppress their anger; they took the streets.

On the following day, Jan 5, the community mobilized for another round of protests. After Marcelo's burial, his family joined the action and gave speeches.

Marcelo's daughter, Vitória Guimarães, said: "We want justice, not only for him, but for all those the police killed. My father was a worker, different from them, who are

bandits and corrupt. The government kills the blacks, the poor, the slum dwellers, and the workers. My father was honest, they are not, that's the difference."

Angélica, Marcelo's mother, said, "[...] they kill and keep laughing. Because there were police here [at the scene of the crime] laughing. I only want one thing: that this time justice be served."

The protesters marched to a central square in the CDD and stopped at the police station. There the protesters chanted cries such as: "It was not a confrontation, it was murder!" and "It's not over, it has to end, I want the end of the Military Police!"

### NITERÓI

On the same day of January 5, in the Santo Cristo favela in Niterói, protestors blocked the Alameda São Boaventura road after the murder of two teenage boys by the MP.

The victims were Gabriel Machado, 19, a mentally disabled youth who was collecting cans from the street at the time of his murder, and Jeferson, 15.

Protestors denounced police violence and demanded justice with posters and banners.

Although the police officers tried to justify the deaths of these boys as part of their "war on crime," community members refute their lies, reporting that the MP came into the favela already shooting. The police are the real criminals, who terrorize communities under the guise of fighting crime, while far greater amounts of drugs have been found in the possession of large land owners, who go on unpunished, than in the favelas.



*Gabriel Machado, known as Zulu, was one of the young people killed by the Niterói military police during a routine "operation" in the favelas. He was 19 years old.*

**THE OLD ORDER DISPOSES OF A HUGE CONTINGENT OF ANGRY AND DISILLUSIONED YOUTHS, LEADING THEM TO COMMIT CRIMES, AND THEN KILLS THOSE WHO HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH DELINQUENCY BUT ARE POOR AND BLACK, POTENTIALLY ANGRY AT SUCH EXPLOITATION AND OPPRESSION, WHICH IS THEIR "CRIME." [THESE] ARE NOT ACCIDENTS, BUT SINISTER WICKEDNESS, WITH THE AIM OF CONTROLLING THE REVOLT OF THE POOR - REVOLT AGAINST ALL THE ROT AND SUFFERING THEY FACE - BY IMPOSING A REGIME OF POLICE TERROR, OF SHOCK.**

**- A NOVA DEMOCRACIA**

*The following is a reproduction of an editorial published in **A Nova Democracia**:*

[These cases are] far from accidental, and [are] the result of the old social order. Seeking to justify these and so many other deaths of workers, victims of a true genocide, the old state, through the MP, always claims that it is a casualty, a "stray bullet" etc., as if the misfortune that occurs in the favelas and the "accidental death" of innocents were side effects to eliminate delinquency. But as we can see, the bloodbath of the police forces not only fails to eliminate crime, but unites these forces. In order to combat it, it would be necessary, in addition to solving the main problems that launch young people into this life, to focus on repressing the real bandits: landowners, big businessmen and politicians involved, from the top of their heaps of money with international drug trafficking, led by tycoons who do not suffer at all from the police operations in the favelas.

On the other hand, this delinquency that grows in poor neighborhoods, of which Marcelo and so many others

were not involved in, is the result of an economic massacre that, in Rio de Janeiro, from May to October, increased the number of unemployed by 48% [not counting the legion of thousands of street vendors and other workers on the edge of complete misery]. First, the old order disposes of a huge contingent of angry and disillusioned youths, leading them to commit crimes, and then kills those who have nothing to do with delinquency but are poor and black. Their only "crime" is being potentially angry at such exploitation and oppression. This and all other cases are not accidents, but sinister wickedness, with the aim of controlling the revolt of the poor against all the rot and suffering they face by imposing a regime of police terror. And the greatest proof of this is the threat of a petty policeman who finds himself the authority to declare an end to the right to protest, which is already effectively denied to the masses of people.

AND stands in solidarity with the family and friends of Marcelo and so many others who, in the darkness of alleys, are targets of the murderous rage of the old Brazilian state.

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